

Name _____

Surviving the Storm: Life during the Great Depression

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Breadlines and soup kitchens played a crucial role in providing meals to people facing economic hardship during the Great Depression. They served as lifelines, offering food to those who couldn't afford it. These institutions not only helped alleviate hunger but also symbolized the spirit of community and support during difficult times.
2. The Great Depression inspired creativity and artistry as artists and writers sought to capture the experiences and challenges of the era. Woody Guthrie's music, for example, conveyed the struggles and hopes of ordinary people. "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck depicted the plight of migrant workers, shedding light on social injustices and economic hardships. These artists explored themes of resilience, unity, and the human spirit in the face of adversity.
3. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) had a profound impact on American society during the Great Depression. It provided employment to millions of Americans, including artists, writers, and laborers. They created public art installations, wrote guidebooks, and built national parks. These projects not only provided jobs but also enriched American culture and infrastructure, leaving a lasting legacy that can still be appreciated today.
4. "Hoovervilles" were shantytowns that emerged during the Great Depression, named after President Herbert Hoover. They were composed of makeshift homes constructed from cardboard and scrap materials. These shantytowns were a stark reminder of the economic hardships faced by many Americans during the era. They reveal the dire living conditions and the extent of homelessness and poverty that characterized the period.

